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PREVIOUS ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

In 1980, Middle Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. (MAAR) conducted a cultural resources assessment of Concord Pike in New Castle County, Delaware. This work was conducted in connection with proposed improvements to Concord Pike (Route 202) from Interstate 95 to the Pennsylvania state line (Thomas et al 1980:I-1). This work consisted of archival and architectural investigations of seven properties and archeological fieldwork at one of these seven properties, the Blue Ball Tavern. Only the Husbands property (N-4049), and the Blue Ball Tavern (N-542), lay within the project boundaries discussed here. According to Thomas et al (1980:II-18), the house located on the Husbands property is shown on the Baist Atlas of 1893 but not on the Beers Atlas of 1868. The owner of the property stated to MAAR that the house was constructed in 1887. The architectural evaluation contained within the MAAR report (1980:II-19, III-2) stated that additions to the house have resulted in "an ill-conceived conglomeration of architectural styles that cannot be considered as of significance." However, subsequently it was noted that "outbuildings associated

with this structure, the unusual conglomeration of building stages represented, and many significant remaining interior details, however, may make it eligible for listing on the National Register".

Fieldwork in 1980 on the Blue Ball Tavern tract was divided into two phases, Phase I and Phase II. The Phase I field investigations consisted of an examination of the standing structures, a surface collection and testing using a manual posthole digger (Thomas et al 1980:II-20). This work revealed several concentrations of artifacts as well as data which suggested subsurface archeological and architectural remains. The Phase II investigations consisted of a series of test excavations including four test units and four trenches. This fieldwork revealed the presence of two middens, possible outbuildings as well as foundation remnants and builder's trenches associated with a house/tavern and a possible well. The researchers felt that the date of construction for this structure would have been post-1850 as a wire nail was found in association with one of the builder's trenches. Thomas recommended that the site may be considered eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

CULTURAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

Delaware's regional prehistory has been subdivided into four major time periods (Custer 1980, 1984). They are the Paleo Indian Period (ca. 12,000 B.C. - 6500 B.C.), the Archaic Period (6500 B.C. - 3000 B.C.), the Woodland I Period (3000 B.C. - A.D. 1000) and the Woodland II Period (A.D. 1000-1650). The Contact Period, dating from A.D. 1650 to 1750, follows the four major time periods. After about 1750, the aboriginal population in Delaware had ceased to exist as a relatively unacculturated way of life.

Paleo Indian Period

This time period dates to the terminal Late Pleistocene and early Holocene climatic eras, a time that marks the final retreat of the glaciers and the gradual development of modern climatic regimes. The Paleo Indian climate consisted of alternating wet and dry conditions characteristic of the Late Pleistocene and early Holocene and which supported the various extinct species of large game mammals such as mastodon, mammoth and moose. These animals were adapted to the various vegetational communities that existed, a mixed mosaic of deciduous and boreal forests, as well as grassland environments.

The tool kit of the Paleo Indian was oriented primarily toward the hunting of the various large game animals. Diagnostics are fluted and notched projectile points (the latter characterizing the Early Archaic) as well as several kinds of side and end scrapers. A preference for high quality crypto-crystalline lithic raw